

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Such proposals will be considered on their merits as and when received.

Toll Tax in Gujarat

5696. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total revenue earned from toll tax on National Highways in Gujarat during the last three years, district-wise;
- (b) the total revenue generated in Kutch-Saurashtra region during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;
- (c) the total allocation made out of this for the road sector of Kutch region; and
- (d) the criteria fixed for allocation of funds in the road sector for each district ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No toll tax has been levied on National Highways so far. However, fee on permanent bridges on National Highways is collected. An amount of Rs. 15.83 crores was collected during the last three years in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The total amount of Rs. 15.83 crores was reallocated to the State of Gujarat for the development of National Highway in that State. However, Government of India is not concerned with regard to region-wise/district-wise allocation.

Diversion of Funds

5697. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether District Rural Development Agency have diverted Government funds to fixed deposits and incurred huge loss of interest in M.Ps. Account which has been highlighted in the Report of the Deputy Accountant General (Central) of Kochi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Kerala, the funds are deposited in Nationalised Banks on short term fixed deposits for 30

and 45 days thereby gaining interest at 8 to 10 percent on these deposits. There is no loss of interest on M.P. Funds in DRDA, Kochi. State Government of Kerala has also intimated non receipt of the report of the Deputy Accountant General (Central) Kochi.

- (c) Does not arise.

Expenditure made in Defence Ministry

5698. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total expenditure incurred by his Ministry/ Departments and subordinate offices under his Ministry during the year 1996-97;
- (b) the extent to which it compared to the expenditure incurred during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;
- (c) the details of economy measures taken to curtail the expenditure during the last three years; and
- (d) to what extent expenditure incurred during 1997-98 is likely to be curtailed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) A net expenditure provision of Rs. 33,402.42 crores, including Pensions, have been made in RE 1996-97. Expenditure incurred during preceding 3 years is as under :

Year	Rs. in crores
1993-94	24571.30
1994-95	26154.38
1995-96	30248.63

(c) and (d) There has been a constant endeavour to effect economy as well as optimise existing resources utilisation in all spheres of Defence expenditure. Measures taken to economise the Defence expenditure is an ongoing process which will continue in 1997-98.

Rehabilitation of Sardar Sarovar Project Oustees

5699. SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of Sardar Sarovar Project Oustees have returned to their villages because of dissatisfaction with their rehabilitation package;